

The House Committee on Higher Education offers the following substitute to HB 74:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 3 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to the Georgia Student Finance Authority, so as to provide for legislative  
3 findings; to provide for definitions; to provide for tuition grant assistance for certain students  
4 attending Georgia Military College; to provide for the manner of applying for such grants;  
5 to provide for reductions of grant amounts under certain circumstances; to provide for audits;  
6 to provide for refunds under certain circumstances; to provide for repayment under certain  
7 circumstances; to provide for penalties for false statements; to provide for related matters;  
8 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Part 3 of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
12 relating to the Georgia Student Finance Authority, is amended by adding a new subpart to  
13 read as follows:

14 "Subpart 6B

15 20-3-448.

16 The General Assembly finds that it is essential for the national defense that persons be  
17 encouraged to consider military leadership positions as an honorable and rewarding  
18 profession and that Georgia Military College plays a significant role in preparing and  
19 training students for life in the military as a profession. It is the purpose of the General  
20 Assembly, as provided for in this subpart, to encourage students to enroll in Georgia  
21 Military College and its military training program and to encourage such students to accept  
22 military commissions by providing for tuition grant assistance to such students.

23 20-3-448.1.

24 As used in this subpart, the term 'eligible student' means a person who:

- 25 (1) Is enrolled in or accepted for enrollment in Georgia Military College for a minimum  
26 of 12 academic hours;  
27 (2) Is or will be a citizen of this state for a period of at least 12 months immediately prior  
28 to the date of registration therein;  
29 (3) Is enrolled in or plans to enroll in the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps  
30 program at Georgia Military College;  
31 (4) Has signed an agreement to attend North Georgia College and State University as a  
32 cadet upon graduation from Georgia Military College; and  
33 (5) Has signed a contract to accept a commission, to be effective upon graduation from  
34 North Georgia College and State University, as an officer in any branch of the armed  
35 services of the United States or the Army National Guard.

36 20-3-448.2.

37 Subject to funds being appropriated by the General Assembly for such purposes, there is  
38 granted to each eligible student attending Georgia Military College the sum of \$1,000.00  
39 per academic quarter.

40 20-3-448.3.

41 Each eligible student wishing to receive the grant provided for in this subpart shall submit  
42 to Georgia Military College an application for the grant payment at the time and in  
43 accordance with procedures prescribed by the authority. The authority is authorized to  
44 define such terms and prescribe such rules, regulations, and procedures as may be  
45 reasonable and necessary to carry out the purposes of this subpart. The authority shall not  
46 approve payment of any grant until it has received from an appropriate officer of Georgia  
47 Military College a certification that the student applying for the grant is an eligible student.  
48 Upon timely receipt of such certification, in proper form, the authority is authorized to pay  
49 the grant to Georgia Military College on behalf of and to the credit of the eligible student.  
50 In the event a student on whose behalf a grant is paid does not enroll as a full-time student  
51 for the school term for which the grant is paid, Georgia Military College shall make a  
52 refund to the authority in accordance with regulations of the authority.

53 20-3-448.4.

54 In the event funds appropriated to the authority by the General Assembly for the grants  
55 provided for in this subpart are not sufficient to enable the authority to pay on behalf of  
56 eligible students the full grant prescribed by the General Assembly, grants payable for the  
57 remaining school terms shall be reduced by the authority on a pro rata basis.

58 20-3-448.5.

59 Georgia Military College shall be subject to examination by the state auditor for the sole  
60 purpose of determining whether the school has properly certified eligibility and enrollment  
61 of students and credited grants paid on behalf of such students. However, nothing in this  
62 subpart shall be construed to interfere with the authority of the school to determine  
63 admissibility of students or to control its own curriculum, philosophy, purpose, or  
64 administration. In the event it is determined that the school knowingly or through error  
65 certified an ineligible student to be eligible for a grant under this subpart, the amount of the  
66 grant paid to the school pursuant to such certification shall be refunded by the school to the  
67 authority.

68 20-3-448.6.

69 Any person who becomes an eligible student and accepts payment of the grant authorized  
70 by this subpart and who does not continue such person's education through to graduation  
71 from both Georgia Military College and North Georgia College and State University shall  
72 be liable for the repayment of all grant funds received by such person under this subpart.

73 20-3-448.7.

74 Any person who knowingly makes or furnishes any false statement or misrepresentation  
75 or who accepts such statement or misrepresentation knowing it to be false for the purpose  
76 of enabling an ineligible student to obtain wrongfully a grant under this subpart shall be  
77 guilty of a misdemeanor."

78 **SECTION 2.**

79 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.